

were admitted to the Union. Many of us have already seen the five new State quarters minted this year with designs from Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, and Connecticut. The Act authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to select the design and determine the number of quarters to be issued with each of the new designs. The statute outlines standards for designs and establishes a selection process for each State that includes consultation with State officials, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.

The new coins also establish a sense of pride in honoring the 50 States and the heritage they represent. But very importantly, the Act is a tool that will help lower the debt of the United States. That is right. The U.S. coins from the penny to the dollar actually turn a profit. In fact, last year, the Mint returned a profit of over \$1 billion to the taxpayer. This is often an overlooked element that can be an important tool to slow the looming public debt of this Nation.

The 50 States Commemorative Coin Program Act estimates the 10-year coin program for the quarter would produce \$110 million in earnings or approximately \$11 million annually, coming mostly from the coins sold as commercial products from the Mint. Frankly, the quarter program is already a huge success. In fact, the Mint has dedicated its main phone line to answer questions about the quarters and how to order them. Last year, the U.S. Mint made 1.6 billion quarters. This year the Mint plans to make 5.6 billion, due to the new design.

Clearly, this \$110 million yield expected on the new quarter is a significant amount. But the real savings comes in what is called seigniorage. Seigniorage is the difference between the face value of the coin and the coin's cost of production. The costs include coin processing operations, transportation costs and related overhead.

Specifically, to manufacture a quarter costs around 5 cents to the Treasury. Thus, the government is realizing a 20 cent profit per quarter put into circulation. Therefore, the anticipated seigniorage profit to the Treasury for the new quarters is estimated between \$2.6 billion and \$5.1 billion. Let me repeat that again. The anticipated profit to the Treasury and ultimately to the taxpayer is \$2.6 billion to \$5.1 billion, depending on how many they make.

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Let us extrapolate for a moment. Next year, the Mint will start producing the new gold-colored Sacajawea \$1 coin. The seigniorage accrued from the dollar coin is estimated to be around 85 to 90 cents per coin. Imagine, 90 cents profit returned to the taxpayer for every dollar coin produced.

Congress talks a lot about balancing budgets, but with the national debt way over \$5 trillion maybe it is time we start targeting our new profits from

coins toward eliminating the cloud of debt that still hangs over us. Maybe we can actually find a silver lining and reduce the debt for our children.

#### VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE CONFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before this great Chamber to share with my colleagues one of the greatest moments that I have experienced as a Member of Congress.

Today I participated in a discussion with the chaperons for the Voices Against Violence Conference which is being held today and tomorrow on Capitol Hill. Voices Against Violence is a national student conference whose purpose is to add the voices of America's high school students to the debate in Washington over what to do about youth violence.

LaDasha Richardson and George Whitfield of the Cleveland School of the Arts, of the Cleveland Municipal School District, are representing my district, the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

LaDasha and George started the Students Against a Violent Environment, SAVE, a grass-roots organization comprised of students from around the city of Cleveland, that is committed to assisting and educating children and young adults on how to make our communities safe and more positive.

Today I want to applaud their efforts. I also want to recognize the chaperones who have accompanied students like LaDasha and George here today who too are committed to making the lives of our children better. Because of their commitment, I asked each chaperone what we can do as elected officials to make their vision a reality.

I asked each to complete a card giving their name, the area they represented and if they could tell Congress one thing what that one thing would be. Here to my right are some of the comments which highlight what we in Congress need to do to make the lives of our children better, in the words of these various chaperons.

Later on my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), and I, will be talking about the statements that these chaperons have made.

Charlie Jackson, an assistant principal at Brooks County High School in Quitman, Georgia says, "More money is needed to provide the opportunities and experiences to help our kids overcome the issues they face."

Luis Beltre of New York City writes, "Although young people cannot vote, we must empower them and instill in them a sense of pride because they do

count. We should create a National General Youth Council that will express the voice of young people today."

Mike Stauropoulos of Memphis, Tennessee, writes, "Democrats and Republicans must do a better job of making kids their priority and not their own political agendas. It is very discouraging to see the waste of time and energy being wasted in Washington as one party tries to show up the other. If you want the people to have a voice, then listen to them and make them a priority."

Robert Brucher of Illinois writes, "I do not want to appear ungrateful but please do not give me money for extra teachers until you send me money to build another room in which they can teach. Make me accountable for educating my students but give me the tools. Help me and my colleagues make opportunities for our kids."

Anne Christensen of Minnesota writes, "Our children know what is happening. Please listen to them. Put more money into programs and early prevention."

Albert Harper of Coventry, Connecticut, writes, "So long as any child is disenfranchised from the promise of a future in America, we have talked without hope and our children fall in despair and violence."

Deborah A. Covarrubia of San Antonio, Texas, writes, "The most influential aspect of a young person's life is the education they receive. Parents, teachers and mentors should take more responsibility in teaching ethics. Ethics in education should be emphasized. God's law is man's law."

Kathleen Kropf of Macomb, Michigan writes, "Homeless children from working poor families continues to grow at an alarming rate in our country. These children and their families need to be acknowledged and assisted. Why in the richest country in the world do 10 percent of our citizens go to bed hungry every night? There should be no, quote, hungry or homeless children in our country today. We cannot assist them without acknowledging and addressing this problem."

Finally, Roger Barnes of La Crosse, Wisconsin, writes, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing. For me, the main thing is our youth. Character does count. When it comes to character, we must put politics aside and do the right thing. Send a strong message about the moral fiber which made this country great. When we tolerate immorality at the highest levels, the message is overwhelming and becomes a disease which permeates the entire population."

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to speak to the issues of the chaperons.

#### THE LEGION OF HONOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.